

bill and helping it get to the Floor of the House today. I'd especially like to thank Congressman POMBO, Chairman of the House Resources Committee and his staff and NICK RAHALL, its Ranking Member, and his staff, for their advice and counsel as this bill went through the legislative process in the House.

The amendment in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

JUNIOR DUCK STAMP REAUTHORIZATION AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2005

Mr. POMBO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Resources be discharged from further consideration of the bill (H.R. 3179) to reauthorize and amend the Junior Duck Stamp Conservation and Design Program Act of 1994, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

Mr. OBEY. Reserving the right to object, Mr. Speaker, for the last 8 hours, we have been dealing with a majority leadership that has stripped out of the appropriations process and out of the conference virtually every major understanding we have had on those bills. We have had the United States Senate ram down our throats an ANWR provision. And then after we were assured in conference that there would be no language with respect to drug company indemnification, 3 hours after the conference report we get 45 pages of language which Senator FRIST and the Speaker of the House demanded be included in the conference report after the conference was specifically told it would not be in there.

Now, I want to know how do we have assurances on any bill brought to this floor under unanimous consent that that same kind of nonsense is not occurring in these instances? I have a responsibility as the ranking member of the Appropriations Committee to try to defend the integrity of this House, and I will use any opportunity I can to point out how the majority leadership in this House is destroying the principle that this is supposed to be the greatest deliberative body in the world.

How long is the bill? Because, Mr. Speaker, I am tempted to demand that every single bill that comes up tonight be read in its entirety.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The bill is four pages.

Mr. OBEY. I would like to have the bill read.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under this unanimous-consent procedure a bill is reported by title only.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I will withdraw that request because I did not inform the gentleman ahead of time, and he just happened to get in the line of

fire on something he should not have been involved in.

Mr. POMBO. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. OBEY. Absolutely.

Mr. POMBO. The bills that we are doing by UC right now are bills that have been before the committee for a long time. The particular bill you are objecting to is a bill that the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ORTIZ) has been working on for years. It is something that means a lot to him. He was sitting right behind you just a minute ago, and I am sure he would be happy to explain it to you. We are not adding anything new into the bill of the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ORTIZ).

Mr. OBEY. I am not objecting to any bill, and I am not suggesting you did. What I am doing is using the only avenue available to me since we are operating under some very strange rules in this House to point out that even if these matters had been cleared on both sides of the aisle, there is really no way for the individual Member to protect himself if the leadership of this House is going to depart from what ought to be the custom in this place of not dictating what goes into conference reports.

Mr. POMBO. If the gentleman will yield, these bills have been worked out. They have been cleared by the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL) and myself. Most of these bills are from your side of the aisle, and they are bills that have been worked on for a number of years. There is nothing in here that has changed. I understand your frustration. It happens every year when we get to the end of the session that stupid stuff happens.

Mr. OBEY. With all due respect, what does not happen is that the leadership does not abuse its power routinely to alter the contents of conference reports. So I know the gentleman didn't, and I have no objection to the gentleman proceeding. But I wanted to use this as an opportunity to point out that the leadership of this House, starting with the Speaker of the House, is abdicating his responsibility to protect the integrity of this institution.

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the right to object.

Mr. POMBO. Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my unanimous consent request.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The request is withdrawn.

Mr. POMBO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Resources be discharged from further consideration of the bill (H.R. 3179) to reauthorize and amend the Junior Duck Stamp Conservation and Design Program Act of 1994, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

Mr. MARKEY. Reserving the right to object, Mr. Speaker, this is one of the most preposterous situations that the

House has ever been placed in. Poised to be placed before the House in just a matter of moments is a bill, the Defense appropriations bill, which is in violation of the germaneness rules of the House; it is in violation of any scope that the Defense appropriations bill has ever allowed to be considered in that bill because inside that bill is a provision which will in fact allow for the drilling in the Arctic Wildlife Refuge.

The gentleman from California is the chairman of the committee, the Natural Resources Committee, which has jurisdiction over the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

Mr. POMBO. Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my unanimous consent request.

Mr. MARKEY. The gentleman is out here propounding. I would like to continue to be recognized.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will suspend.

The request is withdrawn.

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REPORT ON RESOLUTION WAIVING POINTS OF ORDER AGAINST CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2863, DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2006

Mr. COLE of Oklahoma, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 109-361) on the resolution (H. Res. 639) waiving points of order against the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 2863) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON S. 1932, DEFICIT REDUCTION ACT OF 2005

Mr. NUSSLE submitted the following conference report and statement on the Senate bill (S. 1932) to provide for reconciliation pursuant to section 202(a) of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2006 (H. Con. Res. 95):

WAIVING POINTS OF ORDER AGAINST CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2863, DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2006

Mr. COLE of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 639 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

[Conference report will be printed in a future edition of the RECORD.]

H. RES. 639

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 2863) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes. All points of order against the conference report and against its consideration